

Sustainable Economic Development Advisory Committee (SEDAC)

Minutes

April 12, 2007, 8:30 AM

Office of Economic Development

Members present: Becky Anderson, Ray Bailey, Carol King, Jacqueline Grant, Brian Moore, Chuck Tessier, Matthew Raker, Gene Bell, Bruce Tompkins

Members absent: Robin Cape, David McConville, Lewis Lankford, Pam Turner

Staff: Sam Powers, Brenda Mills, Stephanie Monson, Jan Moore

Guests: Linda Giltz

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Minutes

A quorum was not present, so the minutes were not discussed at the meeting. They will be presented for approval at the May meeting.

Update of SEDAC Priorities/Asheville Agenda

Chairman Tessier said he had met with the City Council Planning and Economic Development Committee on April 11th. He told them SEDAC's goals are to provide advice and direction to help Council develop the economic development engine to build a world class city. SEDAC's priorities are:

1. River – the river has been and can be even more of a major growth area. The river is interconnected to flooding issues, transportation issues, recreation, Economic Development and job creation, and the Arts.
2. Downtown – major projects are currently happening downtown. Additionally, the linkages to social issues, Arts, public infrastructure such as parking, and place building make downtown a major priority.
3. Jobs – the City needs to build livability. There needs to be jobs in order for people to live here.

The financing aspect needs to be figured out, as well as how to have provide affordability.

Chairman Tessier stated that the City needs to get past the reviewing and analyzing step and move on to the implementation step.

Case in point - \$1.5 million has been spent since the flood of 2 years ago on determining preventive measures. However, none of those preventive measures have been implemented. If there were another flood like the one 2 years ago, the City would be in exactly the same shape as they were 2 years ago.

Staff from the Flood Task Force will be invited to SEDAC's May meeting to present the information they plan to take to City Council at the end of May. SEDAC will give input to the Task Force for possible inclusion in their presentation to City Council.

A retreat will be organized between SEDAC and City Council in July. It was agreed that focusing on one particular item (the river) would be a more successful way to approach Council than presenting many items. SEDAC will present step-by-step action steps on how to implement changes and will give a couple of examples of places where the suggested steps have been implemented successfully.

Review of City Boards and Commissions

In response to a request by Ms. Grant, SEDAC has been provided with a packet outlining the duties and functions of various City Boards and Commissions that have an economic development component. Mr. Powers said he would provide SEDAC with the duties and functions of the Flood Task Force prior to their May meeting.

HUB Project Updates

Mr. Raker said that the HUB website will go live the week of April 16th (www.ashevillehub.com). There was discussion about SEDAC's recommendations being reviewed by the HUB Committee and included on the HUB website. Mr. Raker suggested that the HUB website might be a good central location for historic documentation on such projects as the river.

Other Business

SEDAC viewed a very thought-provoking video currently highlighted on www.youtube.com that had been produced by a teacher for his students to give them an idea of the changes that are radically changing how knowledge is being created.

There was discussion how technology today makes it so easy to communicate. This ease also makes it easy for just one person to slow down significantly or stop a whole process. (Also, how easy it is for someone to attack people from the safety of their basement with their doors locked.)

Linda Giltz reminded SEDAC of the Brownfields Conference which will be held April 24 and 25, 2007. She also said that Land of Sky will be taking a tour of Chattanooga, TN and has invited City Council of go. Bryan Freeborn has said he will go.

Adjourned: 9:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 2007 - 8:30 AM
Economic Development Office, 29 Haywood Street

Minutes prepared by: Jan Moore